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Euphrates valley were influenced by primitive conceptions of sacrifice"? Such points will, no doubt, be corrected in the future editions, which will be necessary if the work receives the appreciation which it merits. It is alike necessary to the Assyriologist, the Old Testament scholar, and the student of comparative religion.

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### GESENIUS' HEBREW GRAMMAR.<sup>1</sup>

The task of the reviewer of this book is simply that of testing the faithfulness of the translation to the original text. The conception of what a good translation should be varies all of the way from a close literal rendering to that of a free breaking-up and practical reconstruction of the original text, preserving, at the same time, the substantial sense of that original. The fact of this wide divergence in the conception of a translation should insure large charity on the part of a critic of such work.

The stupendous amount of labor connected with the translation and publication of such a book as this is far beyond the conception of most literary workers. A minute examination of this translation alongside of the original, through several long sections, reveals the fact that the translators used large liberties with the original, freely breaking up and reconstructing the text on the basis of the sense. Slight slips here and there, like the leaving out of a word, or the addition of a word, scarcely merit notice. It is interesting to note how closely this translation of the syntax runs alongside of that of Mitchell's translation of 1893. Often the wording is precisely the same; again the sentence, which in Mitchell may be too literal and stiff, is broken up and given an easier form. Again, one or two synonyms only mark the difference between the two. A translator's task is always lightened by the existence of a predecessor's work. While the sense is substantially the same in almost every instance in the syntax, this is, as a rule, an easier and freer rendering of the original into English, and carries with it the few additions found in the twenty-sixth edition.

One of the troublesome questions which meet every translator is that of how to reproduce the references and quotations. The only reasonable method is to make as much of the material as possible accessible to the readers for whom a translation is made. Consequently all references to books should give the title of the book just as it reads on the book, and in the language in which the book is written. The titles of articles which exist only in other than the English language should follow the same rule. But in a translation designed for English readers, reference should be made to the *English* edition, if such occurs. On p. 2, note 1, also on p. 3, l. 11 from the bottom, we find English titles for articles

<sup>1</sup> GESENIUS' HEBREW GRAMMAR, as edited and enlarged by E. Kautzsch, Professor of Theology in the University of Halle. Translated from the Twenty-fifth German Edition by the late Rev. G. W. Collins, M.A.;\*the Translation Revised and Adjusted to the Twenty-sixth Edition by A. E. Cowley, M.A. Oxford: *The Clarendon Press*, 1898; New York: *Henry Frowde*. xviii + 598 pp. \$5.25.

which are found only in German—of no use to students who can make use of English only. On pp. 23 and 107, Buhl's *Kanon u. Text des A. T.* is referred to with no hint on the part of the translator that an English edition is extant. In several instances (pp. 67, 100, etc.) the German *WB.* is translated simply by *Lexicon*, where Gesenius' complete English Lexicon is greatly antiquated. Would it not have been better to have said simply, *discussed in Gesenius' Wörterbuch* [last edition, such being the case]?

A few corrections also in facts: Holzinger, *Einl. in den Hexateuch*, not *Pentateuch* (p. 13, l. 4 from bottom); Strack, *Einl. ins A. T.*<sup>4</sup> should be <sup>5</sup>, *i. e.*, *A. T.*<sup>5</sup> (p. 13, l. 3 from bottom). On p. 24, S. J. Curtiss should be *S. I. Curtiss*, as in the German original. On p. 16, the author substitutes Cheyne's *Origin of the Psalter* for Giesebrecht's article in *ZATW.*, 1881. On p. 334 and elsewhere, for *Jahwe* in the German the translator substitutes *The Lord*. A few additions here and there of English works not found in the original, *e. g.*, Cheyne's *Introduction to Isaiah* (p. 14) and the new volumes of the "Polychrome Bible" (p. 20), add value to the work.

A few German idioms color the English, but these can scarcely be avoided in a work of such magnitude. But "*cow in calf*" (p. 410, *e*) is an unhappy conveyance of the original.

It is very unfortunate that a book of such value should not be provided, in addition to indexes of subjects and texts, with an index of Hebrew words. This puts students to an extremely irritating disadvantage, in fact leads them to prefer a Hebrew grammar less complete in some other respects, if its contents are readily accessible through complete Hebrew indexes.

The publishers have done well, by the use of varied type, in keeping down the size of the volume, but its paper is still thicker than the German edition and the book consequently larger. The cost of the book is almost prohibitory of sales, especially to students of Hebrew, whose funds are notably scarce. Withal the translator is to be congratulated (Mr. Collins died before the appearance of his work) on the great care shown on every page, both in the translations and in the proof-reading, of this edition of the people's Hebrew Grammar of this day.

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### KÖNIG'S HEBREW SYNTAX.<sup>1</sup>

The reviewer who finds himself face to face with a monumental work is at a great disadvantage. There is so little to *criticise* and so much to *learn*. Especially is this the case with a book, like the present, every page of which contains evidences of an amazing industry, a prodigious learning, and that faculty of ripe judgment which is the result of both

<sup>1</sup> HISTORISCH-COMPARATIVE SYNTAX DER HEBRÄISCHEN SPRACHE. Schlussteil (= II. Hälfte, 2. Teil) des historisch-kritischen Lehrgebäudes der hebräischen Sprache, mit comparativer Berücksichtigung des Semitischen überhaupt. Von Fr. Ed. König. Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, 1897; ix + 721 pp. M. 18; bound, M. 20.50.